

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
DOUGLAS N. LETTER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute Douglas Neal Letter for his exemplary service as General Counsel of the House of Representatives. For four years, Doug has relentlessly defended this institution, its Members and its prerogatives. His passion for public service and his brilliant legal mind have been essential to this Chamber's work For The People.

Doug's legal career has spanned 40 years of dutiful service—including a range of senior positions at the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as time as a Senior Litigator at the Georgetown University Law Center's Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection. One of our nation's most skilled appellate lawyers and a leading expert on Constitutional law, Doug has presented oral argument before federal appellate and trial courts in more than 200 cases.

After four decades of service in the executive branch, Doug answered the call to serve the House at the start of the 116th Congress in January 2019. Under Doug's leadership, the General Counsel's Office has expertly handled complex litigation and provided wise legal advice to our Members, Officers, Committees and staff—regardless of political affiliation.

When the House's institutional interests were at stake, Doug and his team worked tirelessly to protect the House's critical role in our Constitutional structure. Doug successfully argued before the Supreme Court in a landmark case advocating the complete enumeration of the Census to ensure the accuracy of the apportionment of the House and its institutional integrity.

In addition, Doug successfully led a team of talented attorneys in litigating numerous cases to uphold the House's subpoena authority. Under a high-stakes national spotlight, Doug and his team successfully fought to defend the Committee on Ways and Means' statutory authority to obtain tax returns from the Internal Revenue Service. He was also successful in defending the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol's ability to obtain presidential records from the National Archives and Records Administration.

Further, under Doug's guidance, the House filed amicus briefs articulating its position on several key legal matters, including the proper interpretation of the Constitution's Speech or Debate Clause in connection with several criminal prosecutions. Numerous Members and Committees relied on Doug's litigation expertise in connection with two Presidential impeachments, as well as extensive investigative and oversight activities. Doug also defended House Members, Officers and staff in judicial proceedings at both the trial and appellate lev-

els and advised Members and Committees on their interactions with both private companies and other governmental entities.

Upon leaving the House, Doug will join the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, where he will continue to provide legal counsel of the highest caliber. On behalf of the entire House community, I thank Doug for his dedicated service and wish him and his entire family the very best in all of his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTER- STATE TEACHING MOBILITY ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce the Interstate Teaching Mobility Act. This broadly supported legislation will create a new voluntary program at the Department of Education (DOE) to allow licensed teachers to use their licenses across state lines.

U.S. Bureau Of Labor Statistics reports that in July 2022, there were around 270,000 fewer school workers than in January 2020. This shortage deprives our students of high-quality learning and negatively affects student outcomes. Alarmingly, our country's projected annual shortage of teachers is expected to almost triple by 2025. Teacher shortages disproportionately disadvantage students in underserved communities by widening student-to-teacher ratio which then negatively affects student achievement. Having low student-to-teacher ratios ensures that every student gets the attention they need, and struggling students are not left behind. In Indiana, this problem has gotten worse: between 2016 and 2020, the student-to-teacher ratio in my state grew from 16:1 to 17:1, bringing our state's student-to-teacher ratio well above the national average. In fact, Indiana remains the 42nd worst state in the nation for student-to-teacher ratios. And this teacher disparity does not affect all students equally: student-teacher ratios are highest in minority schools and schools with the most low-income schools.

Teacher shortages not only affect student-teacher ratios, they also limit the number of subject-matter teachers available for students. In Indiana, we have consistently faced major teacher shortages as defined by the Department of Education (DOE). In the most recent data available, Indiana continues to face a shortage of teachers in the subjects of mathematics, science, early childhood, and technology. Study after study has shown that teacher shortages which results in poor student-to-teacher ratios, insufficient subject-matter teachers, and the corresponding decline in education quality disproportionately disadvantages Black and Brown students.

One of the main reasons that many schools can't fill teacher shortages is because of the inconsistent state-by-state differences in

teaching licensing requirements. This prevents licensed teachers from taking their skills and credentials to teach in other states without significant obstacles. These obstacles can include completing additional requirements, such as exams or coursework, or paying additional fees, even if the teacher has already completed an approved credentialing program or has a strong teaching record. Alarmingly, a majority of states do not accept out-of-state teaching credentials, further compounding shortages in disadvantaged areas.

As our Nation's workforce becomes increasingly mobile, these requirements also dramatically decrease the flexibility of our nation's teaching workforce. For military spouses—who frequently relocate and among whom teaching is the second most common profession—or out-of-state college graduates who want to teach in their home state, this problem is especially pronounced. Long term, these roadblocks likely deter many prospective teachers from entering this vital profession. The bottom line is this: differing licensing requirements and lack of licensing reciprocity prevents too many teachers from serving in understaffed and underserved communities across state lines. And as we have seen in states like Indiana, our communities desperately need more high-quality teachers to lower student-teacher ratios and improve outcomes.

These obstacles have real and negative impacts on our students. Teacher shortages disproportionately harm students in underserved communities by denying them adequate teacher-student ratios that research shows help to enable student success. School administrators in underserved communities face difficulties in attracting out-of-state, high-quality teachers to fill their open teaching positions due to licensing inconsistencies.

That's why I am reintroducing the Interstate Teaching Mobility Act today. This legislation will create a voluntary interstate application program at the Department of Education (DOE) to allow licensed teachers to use their licenses across participating state lines.

This legislation will empower teachers to apply for open teaching positions in participating states without being subject to additional certifications or assessments. As a result, it will be easier for teachers to transfer their skills across participating state lines and provide more students with access to high-quality teachers. Importantly, this new flexibility will help alleviate teacher shortages—especially in disadvantaged communities and school districts—by allowing school administrators greater ability to hire more high-quality teachers.

Under this legislation, increased flexibility will not come at the cost of teacher quality. A participating state will be required to adhere to standards of content knowledge, pedagogical assessment, and performance assessments. This would ensure high standards for our teachers, while maintaining the essential role of the states in setting specific requirements for teaching in the state or obtaining licenses in the state.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us the importance of flexibility and teacher quality in ensuring that our students receive the best education. However, the current state-by-state inconsistencies regarding teacher licenses prevent many high-quality teachers from transferring their skills across state lines to serve in communities facing teacher shortages.

The Interstate Teaching Mobility Act will help address these issues by empowering teachers to transfer their skills across state lines and enabling school administrators to hire more high-quality teachers to fill teacher shortages, especially in disadvantaged communities, and lead to better student outcomes.

I urge the House to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING MARIA LOI

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Chef Maria Loi. Chef Loi is an internationally renowned entrepreneur, author, television personality and philanthropist. Often called the Julia Child of Greece, she melds the inspiration of ancient Greece with a modern approach to the Mediterranean diet.

The namesake of Loi Estiatorio in Manhattan, Chef Loi has cooked for celebrities and Presidents. But she most enjoys gathering with a roomful of diners over a good, healthy meal filled with laughter and stories and passing out smiles and homemade cookies to children who visit her restaurant.

Chef Loi is passionate about sharing the magic of all things Greek especially its culinary treasures and the recipes and practices passed down through the generations. Chef Loi is equally well known for her kindness, friendliness, and warmth, making a friend of everyone she meets and lighting up rooms with her bountiful energy, infectious smile and hearty laugh.

The founder of Loi Food Products, a specialty brand built on traditional ingredients from Greece; her pastas, beans, botanical herbs, refrigerated dips, honey and olive oil are sold on QVC, at Whole Foods Markets and in other stores.

The author of more than 36 cookbooks, she is also the host of a new show, *The Life of Loi*, for the Public Broadcasting Service, debuting on broadcast in December 2022. It aims to build an inspirational and educational movement around the Mediterranean diet and lifestyle—from ancient to modern, food to culture and everything in between.

Named an official Ambassador of Greek Gastronomy by the Chefs Club of Greece, Chef Loi is also a passionate and dedicated philanthropist who supports a wide variety of causes focused on children and the underserved.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the culinary, professional, and philanthropic accomplishments of Chef Maria Loi.

RECOGNIZING THE 2022 BEST OF BRADDOCK AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the annual Best of Braddock Awards. These awards are the result of collaborative work between the Braddock District Council and Braddock District Supervisor and are presented to individuals and organizations whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place.

I have been proud to represent this community since my days as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The level of civic engagement celebrated by these awards is a testament to the community spirit of the Braddock District. I have often said that civic engagement is a key indicator of a healthy community, and tonight's event proves that Braddock District continues to be one of the healthiest communities in all of Northern Virginia. I extend my congratulations to all of tonight's honorees and commend them for their efforts to make our region one of the best places in the country to live, work, and raise a family.

It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following recipients of the 2022 Best of Braddock Awards:

ORGANIZATION OR CLUB MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Holy Spirit Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, for their work supporting some of the most vulnerable populations in our communities.

SevaTruck, for their tireless efforts to provide hundreds of children with nutritious food after school.

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION, ENHANCEMENT, OR COMMUNITY-BUILDING EFFORT

Amy Gould, for her efforts to organize and host large-scale clean up events alongside Americana Drive, rain or shine.

Friends of Royal Lake (FORL), for their mission to preserve Royal Lake and its surrounding parks' ecosystems.

MOST "CAN-DO" PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

John Berlin, for his 24 years of service to Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Honorable Mention: Melissa Adams, for her exceptional dedication to her fourth-grade class at Canterbury Woods Elementary School.

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

Pedro Leonardo Herrera Santiago, for his commitment to learning and helping others.

Lucas Bickford, for his initiative in starting Villa Neighborhood Cleanup, an effort that has kept Braddock Beautiful.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Brian Bishop, for his leadership and activism as president of the Little Run Civic Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2022 Best of Braddock honorees for their tremendous contributions to Northern Virginia. We are a better place for them.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF RICHARD FELTS

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, it is with profound gratitude that I rise today to celebrate the career of Mr. Richard Felts, who retired on December 5, 2022. Mr. Felts was the dedicated President of the Kansas Farm Bureau for eight years, where he served as a bold and committed advocate for Kansans. I will miss Mr. Felts' sincerity and passion for solving the problems facing Kansas.

Before committing eight years as President, Mr. Felts also served as Kansas Farm Bureau's vice president and on KFB's board of directors. Mr. Felts was also a committed servant leader in his community. He held leadership and volunteer positions on a wide range of organizations, such as church and township boards, and fought for causes dear to his heart, including conservation and rural fire prevention.

When I first entered public office, Mr. Felts was very generous with his time and advice. He was an invaluable mentor, friend, and link to the Kansas agriculture community. I will sincerely miss his insights and guidance.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the extraordinary career of Mr. Richard Felts. Mr. Felts saw people in his community who needed help and chose to dedicate his life to service and advocacy. I wish him a peaceful retirement with his wife Shirley on their farm.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF BILL LEVY

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of William "Bill" Levy, a constituent of mine who recently passed away.

Bill grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. When he turned 18, he joined the Navy and saw the world. Upon completion of his tour of duty, he returned home to work for the family business, U.S. Tool & Manufacturing Company—a small automotive part company that had been in his family for over 100 years. He loved working at U.S. Tool and was always excited to go into work every day. He was co-owner and head salesman. It was through U.S. Tool that Bill became an active participant of the Production Engine Remanufacturers Association (PERA). He received the PERA Manufacturer of the Year Award at the 2003 PERA convention. He had also served on the PERA board of directors, was the chairman of the membership committee, and was the history committee chairman.

An avid golfer, Bill was known to travel with his golf clubs and play as much as he could. In fact, golf is what brought him to Florida, so he could play golf year-round. Bill was also the PERA golf tournament chairman for decades. Because of his dedication to the PERA golf tournament, the PERA board of directors elected to name the golf tournament the "Bill Levy Memorial Golf Tournament."

Bill was a fun-loving guy, who was frequently the life of the party. Bill's positive and playful outlook on life touched the lives of so many. I am saddened by the loss of such a valuable member of the community and extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING MS. ANN DUNNING FOR 50 YEARS OF OPHTHALMOLOGIC DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished career of my constituent, Ms. Ann Dunning, who has served the Town of Vienna, Virginia for 50 years.

For her decades of comforting and welcoming patients at Mitchell Eye Institute, a local ophthalmologist's office, Ms. Dunning received the inaugural Town of Vienna Outstanding Service Award from Mayor Linda Colbert in a ceremony on Monday, September 26, in a celebration that included generations of her patients.

This honor was initiated by the Mayor and the Town Business Liaison Committee to recognize the individuals in local businesses who have gone above and beyond to better their community. Ms. Dunning's dedication for five decades has earned her the respect, admiration, and trust of her patients and colleagues.

Dr. John Mitchell, the lead ophthalmologist who nominated Ms. Dunning for this award, noted that she has made her patients "feel secure with a continuity of care she has provided them throughout the years." It is no surprise that patients regularly request appointments on days when Ms. Dunning will be working.

Ann Dunning's lifelong dedication to her patients is not only the mark of a passionate individual, but of a community member who recognizes the profound impact we can have on one another in everyday interactions. In her capacity as a medical practitioner, she could have easily adopted a routine that did not account for the feelings of those seeking care.

Instead, Ms. Dunning puts people first. It is exactly this care and kindness that has made her an iconic fixture in the community. I hope that her lessons of gentleness and service will inspire further generations to find ways to make others feel welcome, wherever they may be.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ann Dunning for her 50 years providing ophthalmologic diagnostic service to the Town of Vienna. From her measured demeanor and kind words to her boundless perseverance and dedication to service, Ms. Dunning has illuminated herself as an example to all of us of the comfort we can provide by the smallest actions. I am proud to represent such an upstanding and compassionate citizen in Congress, and I wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

BRAD KARBOWSKY: THE UNION LIFE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of my union brother Brad Karbowsky. Brad is a longtime labor leader, who got his start installing fire protection systems as a member of UA Local 669.

In his career that's spanned nearly three decades, he oversaw apprenticeship programs to train the next generation of workers. He secured pension and health care funds, and established worker protection initiatives to stand up for those being treated unfairly. This is critical work that upholds a core belief of the American Dream: that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should earn a living for you and your family and retire with dignity.

So today, I want to honor Brad's work and wish him the best in retirement. He's earned it.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RARE DISEASE ADVANCEMENT, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION (RARE) ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to reintroduce the Rare Disease Advancement, Research, and Education (RARE) Act. This important legislation will address many of the issues facing rare disease patients and families. This legislation will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those struggling with rare diseases by using increased research to help provide more accurate diagnoses and increased treatment options.

During my service in Congress, I have been honored to represent and meet with many brave Hoosier families that are struggling with rare diseases. I have been moved by their courage. Their strength in midst of trying conditions is not only inspiring, but also instructive. They have educated me and my colleagues about the necessity of increased research and rare disease surveillance in order to provide more treatment options and better diagnoses.

Nearly one in ten Americans live with one or more of the roughly 7,000 known rare diseases. These largely inherited diseases—defined as affecting 200,000 or fewer people—often lack substantive research investments and treatment options. In particular, African-Americans are especially vulnerable to certain rare diseases, including Sickle cell disease and beta-thalassemia. Specifically, the blood disorder Sickle cell disease affects 73 out of every 1,000 African American babies versus only three out of every 1,000 Caucasian babies.

While rare diseases cross the medical spectrum, individuals with rare diseases face some

common challenges. Largely due to their limited patient population size, these individuals may have difficulty obtaining an accurate diagnosis, finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their disease, and ultimately finding appropriate treatment options and cures. Frighteningly, roughly 90 percent of rare diseases still lack a treatment approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). While over 450 drugs have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases, millions of Americans who are suffering from a rare disease have no approved treatment options.

Past Congressional action has helped support research at NIH and CDC, supported in part by the bipartisan appropriations letter I lead each year—signed by over 220 House members—in support of increased NIH funding. However, much more work needs to be done to help these agencies improve rare disease awareness, education, research, surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment. This is why the RARE Act is so important. It will expand the ability of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) to study rare diseases by improving treatment, research, and diagnostics of rare diseases through new and existing programs. I am proud to introduce the RARE Act to help address the many unique challenges facing the rare disease patient community.

The RARE Act would provide an important step forward by addressing some of the common challenges faced by rare disease patients and improving rare disease treatment, research, and diagnostics. The RARE Act would expand an existing and successful program at NIH: the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network (RDCRN). The RDCRN's 21 research "centers of excellence" support the research and clinical trials of over 190 rare diseases and increase the availability of rare disease information to doctors and patients.

The RARE Act would also fill critical gaps in our healthcare system by improving coordination, surveillance, and awareness of rare diseases. For example, the RARE Act would require the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to create a National Rare Disease or Condition Surveillance System. This formalized infrastructure would track rare disease data and help researchers to understand commonalities between diseases and possible treatments, ultimately helping patients like Derrian to find better treatments. The RARE Act would also require the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to expand and intensify its work to ensure that health professionals are aware of rare disease diagnoses and treatments, leading to fewer misdiagnoses like Jocelyn experienced. The RARE Act would also mandate an updated report on rare disease efforts from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to ensure that Congress has the best tools possible to address these issues.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill to help combat rare diseases. I urge the House to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING PAUL WEBSTER FOR
50 YEARS SERVING WITH HOUS-
ING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a leading figure in the practice of community and economic development, Mr. Paul Webster.

Mr. Webster serves as the Director of the Financial Management Division in the Office of Community Planning and Development for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Webster's commitment to public service is unparalleled, his five-decade-long career focused on creating resilient communities, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons and families.

Mr. Webster joined the Department in 1972 and has served as Director since 1983. In this role, Mr. Webster oversees the Section 108 loan guarantee program, a transformational program and resource for low-income communities, including funding for critical economic development projects and facilitation of affordable housing solutions that would otherwise not be possible.

He spearheaded the expansion of the Section 108 program. Over the course of his career, Mr. Webster has overseen an unprecedented 2,000 loan guarantee commitments with a total value close to \$10 billion. These numbers underscore his work to provide the much-needed resources that revitalize American communities and ensure everyone has a chance to succeed.

Mr. Webster also championed legislation that established the Economic Development Initiative (EDI), which provided grant funds to support and enhance the use of Section 108 loan guarantees and the subsequent Brownfields EDI to help address environmental cleanup efforts, returning contaminated property to sustainable use. His expertise also extended to long-term disaster recovery work and neighborhood stabilization activities targeted at addressing the effects of abandoned and foreclosed housing.

He is one of the leading experts on financial management and is happy to provide guidance and advice to individuals, organizations, and federal, state, and local partners for the Department. Equally important, Mr. Webster has been and continues to be a mentor to the next generation of community development and financial management professionals, reflected in the esteem of his colleagues, staff, and external partners.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable public servant, whose expertise, tenacity, and creativity in economic and community development has helped to transform hundreds of communities for the better. Paul Webster has tirelessly dedicated himself to making life better for countless Americans. I hope his continuing legacy inspires us all to renew our commitments to serving our communities.

RECOGNIZING RANIA
ALAFIOYIANNIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Rania Alafioyannis for her outstanding contributions to the fields of e-commerce, marketing, advertising, and customer sales and development. Ms. Alafioyannis is a groundbreaking entrepreneur with a vibrantly diverse background and a myriad of achievements.

Ms. Alafioyannis obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Communications from Hofstra University in New York. She continued on to earn a master's degree in Media Ecology from New York University in 1997.

After completing her education, Ms. Alafioyannis dedicated herself to further professional development by working with a number of notable communications companies. She served as an intern for Technology Solutions, New York, National Greek Television, and HBO.

Ms. Alafioyannis has held positions with Shandwick International, Hill and Knowlton, Inc., and OTE International where she served as Head of Corporate Reputation for two years prior to becoming Head of Corporate Communications. In this role, Ms. Alafioyannis directed the communications programs for OTE International's investment activities in Southeastern Europe. Ms. Alafioyannis went on to work with OTE—COSMOTE (Hellenic Telecommunications), where she assisted with the implementation of the company's residential marketing and advertising programs, with an emphasis on broadband & fixed telephony products and services.

In 2017, Ms. Alafioyannis founded JEWELSOPHY, an international jewelry design company conducting wholesale and retail trade of fine and demi-fine jewelry based in Athens, Greece. Ms. Alafioyannis was driven to build this company based on her desire to design and create jewelry inspired by the rich culture and timeless symbols of the ancient Greek civilization.

Ms. Alafioyannis' work has been recognized a number of times. In 1999, Ms. Alafioyannis was the recipient of the Creativity in Public Relations Award (CIPRA). She also received the 2001 SABRE Award. Ms. Alafioyannis currently serves as Vice President of the Euro-America Women's Council (EAWC).

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Rania Alafioyannis for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the fields of communication and commerce.

HONORING THE LATE DR.
MILDRED FAY JEFFERSON

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we are blessed in the First District of Texas to have been home to a multitude of extraordinary individuals who have made significant impacts

upon not only the State of Texas and our nation, but the entire world. One of those east Texans is whose life we honor today, the late Dr. Mildred Fay Jefferson.

Dr. Jefferson was a young prodigy raised in the town of Carthage, Texas. Her early education was complete before she reached the age of fifteen, graduating from Carthage Colored High School—later known as Turner High School—in 1943.

The determined young woman obtained a Bachelor's degree in Medicine from Texas College at the age of eighteen, then completed her Master's degree in Biology from Tufts University in 1947. Dr. Jefferson then conquered the odds and earned her M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1951, making her the first African American woman to graduate with that degree from the Medical School.

After becoming a medical doctor, Dr. Jefferson continued to make history with a long string of "firsts" for women—including the first woman to serve on staff of Boston City Hospital, the first woman to be granted membership in the Boston Surgical Society, and the first female surgeon general at Boston University Medical Center.

Dr. Jefferson married former Navy Lieutenant Shane Cunningham in 1961. After their divorce in 1978, Dr. Jefferson turned her life to activism by establishing the Massachusetts Citizens for Life Counsel.

A 1970 decision by the American Medical Association to allow member physicians to perform abortions ethically in states where the procedure was allowed sparked a passion in Dr. Jefferson's soul, as she viewed this decision as abandoning the Hippocratic Oath which demands a doctor to "do no harm." She began a nationwide outcry against abortion.

Dr. Jefferson helped form the Value of Life Committee which was one of the organizations that initiated the national "right-to-life" movement which endures today. She quickly became one of the most sought after and fervent spokespersons in the nation to represent the pro-life stance. In 1981, Dr. Jefferson testified before Congress as a result of the historic 1973 Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*.

Dr. Jefferson was quoted as saying, "I became a physician in order to save lives, not to destroy them." She also said, "I am not willing to stand aside and allow this concept of expendable human lives to turn this great land of ours into just another exclusive reservation where only the perfect, the privileged, and the planned have the right to live."

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) was co-founded by Dr. Jefferson in 1973. She then entered the world of politics, running for the U.S. Senate from Massachusetts in 1982, 1990, and 1994.

Dr. Jefferson was honored with twenty-eight honorary degrees from numerous universities and colleges. Although Dr. Jefferson passed away at the age of eighty-four on October 15, 2010, her life's mission continues today. She will be forever remembered as one of the most notable and unwavering crusaders for the rights of unborn children.

It is truly a distinct privilege to honor this remarkable woman, whose exceptional life, steadfast devotion, and landmark accomplishments will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the National Spine Health Foundation on its 20th anniversary.

In 2019, according to the Center for Disease Control, about 39 percent of the U.S. population suffered from chronic neck or back pain. Those numbers increased to 44.8 percent in adults below the federal poverty level. Back pain is also the number one cause of missed workdays, the leading cause of job-related disability and pain in the U.S., and the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription in the U.S. It is no small wonder that spine problems caused by inactivity and neglect during the COVID pandemic have resulted in increased opioid use for pain.

The National Spine Health Foundation is the only national patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions and take back their lives. During the past 20 years, the Foundation has developed award winning patient education, advocacy, and research to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions about their spine health and navigate their own treatment journeys with confidence. It has been well documented that better-informed patients have better outcomes. Knowledge is powerful medicine.

The Foundation's Medical and Scientific Board includes 50 of the top spine specialists in the nation. These spine specialists provide their insight, knowledge, and expertise to help patients understand their options so they can make informed decisions concerning their spine wellness, problem prevention, and surgical and non-surgical treatments.

The Foundation has proven their commitment to spine health research. Patient-reported outcomes have been part of the NSHF fabric since its inception. As they are deeply invested in supporting evidence-based healthcare decision-making, it is important that they take part in finding this evidence. Their trademarked cloud-based 'Spine-online' research tool enables them to conduct multicenter studies and partner with research teams both in the U.S. and internationally, including active studies on robotic surgery, enhanced surgical recovery, augmented reality, stem cell therapy, and more.

Madam Speaker, in the U.S. and globally, musculoskeletal conditions affect more people than any other condition. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the National Spine Health Foundation's 20-year commitment to all those individuals who suffer from spine and back issues.

HONORING FRANCES MUÑOZ, OUR NATION'S FIRST LATINA JUDGE

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frances Muñoz, our Na-

tion's first Latina judge. Judge Frances Muñoz died on October 17, 2022, of natural causes. She was 92 years old.

Judge Frances Muñoz has the distinction of being the first Latina female appointed or elected to the bench in California and the first Latina female appointed or elected as a trial court jurist in the United States. She served for 23 years in the Orange County Municipal and Superior Courts and an additional 15 years as an Assigned Judge.

From humble beginnings, Frances was born at the height of the depression on September 18, 1930, the 5th of 11 children, in the mining town of Miami, Arizona. The family moved to Puritan, Colorado, and her father continued to work in the coal mines until the mines "played out."

In 1941, the family moved to Corona, California, and joined the thousands of others working in farm labor. Frances and her siblings joined their parents in the fields during the summers picking tomatoes, grapes, and other crops in the Fresno area, sometimes sleeping outdoors.

Judge Muñoz inspired her younger siblings to study and pursue higher education. After high school, she went to work selling furniture and she paid for the college expenses of her siblings.

Undaunted, Judge Muñoz pursued her own education by attending night classes at Los Angeles City College, UCLA and law school while managing Atlas Furniture stores during the day. In 1972, Judge Muñoz received her law degree from Southwestern University School of Law where she was a member of Law Review.

She moved to Orange County, where her brother Greg, a graduate from USC law school, had opened a practice. Greg later became an Orange County Superior Court judge and served alongside Frances on the bench.

In 1972, Frances joined the office of the Orange County Public Defender, where she was the first Latina and the second woman to be hired in that office.

In 1974, she and several Latino attorneys established the Orange County Mexican-American Lawyers Club, which was later renamed the Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County. One of their goals was to ensure that more Latinos, who were qualified and experienced, be appointed or elected to the bench. As a result of their efforts, today there are 19 Latino judges out of 124 Superior Court Judges on the Orange County bench and two Latino justices out of eight Appellate Court justices in Orange County.

On January 25, 1978, Governor Jerry Brown's office telephoned Frances Muñoz to advise her that she had been appointed as a Judge in the Harbor Municipal County in Orange County. She was not at her desk. She was in court representing a defendant in a felony jury trial.

As a Deputy Public Defender, she was known as a zealous advocate. But she was also noted for being civil with opposing counsel and respectful of the court. She was also acknowledged for creating and meticulously cataloging 3x5 cards in a small box. On each card she wrote out the facts and holding of the appellate court in key cases involving "furtive gestures," "search of trunk," and other criminal law issues. She would quickly retrieve a key citation during a motion or trial.

Within months of her appointment, she was opposed by a male Deputy District Attorney.

Several Harbor Municipal Court judges, and multitudes of Orange County attorneys, court staff, bailiffs, police officers, and clergy rallied around her to host fundraisers and to support her in the retention election. Her 10 brothers and sisters and their children and parishioners from her church, St. Joachim Catholic Church in Costa Mesa, canvassed neighborhoods to get out the vote. In that 1980 election, Judge Frances Muñoz was retained with the largest plurality of votes of any challenged judge in the state. Four other judges in Orange County lost their seats that year. She was never challenged again.

In 1980 and 1990 she was elected the Supervising Judge of the Harbor Municipal Court and in 1990 was also recognized as the Outstanding Judge of the Year by the Orange County Women Lawyers Association. In 1976, she co-founded the Orange County Hispanic Education Endowment Fund which awards college scholarships to Latino scholars.

In 2001, Judge Muñoz retired from the bench, but continued her public service as an assigned judge until 2016. She also served on the board of directors of THINK—Teaching, Helping, Instructing Kids and boards of other non-profit organizations.

Every Thursday she would tutor students at Santa Ana's Madison Elementary school. She was also a keen real estate investor who purchased several commercial and residential properties. She always accommodated nieces and nephews in her spacious Corona Del Mar home while they studied and earned their bachelors, masters or medical degrees at the University of California, Irvine.

Judge Muñoz is survived by four sisters, Margaret Muñoz, Vera Muñoz-Harrison, Rosie Schirling, and Angie Quintana, and 25 nieces and nephews and 45 great nieces and nephews.

Please join me in celebrating the long, accomplished life of Judge Frances Muñoz. She will be remembered for her perseverance in the face of adversity, excellence as a law student, attorney and judge, for her lifetime dedication to public service and children's education, and for her compassionate and gracious spirit.

HONORING THE SERVICE YASHA NIKITIN

HON. MICHELLE STEEL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, today I honor the career and accomplishments of one of my constituents.

Yasha Nikitin has dutifully served the City of Huntington Beach and its police force for over 20 years. In his time with HBPd, he has protected our community as a police explorer, a student worker, a police cadet, an officer, and a sergeant. He has also served his fellow officers as a board member and president of the Huntington Beach Police Officer Association.

On January 10th, after all of his years of service protecting our friends and neighbors, Yasha will be promoted to Police Lieutenant. Our police are vital to the safety and success of our communities, and we are incredibly fortunate to have as fine a person as Yasha serving on the Huntington Beach Police force.

I want to congratulate him on this well-deserved accomplishment and express my personal gratitude for his tireless commitment to the people of Huntington Beach and Southern California. I wish him and his family all the best as they begin this new undertaking.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRFAX PETS ON WHEELS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th Anniversary of the Fairfax Pets on Wheels program. This program aims to bring joy to our long term assisted living residents through therapy pet visits.

Since 1987, all-volunteer Fairfax Pets on Wheels (FPOW) has been licking loneliness by carrying out their mission to provide companionship and improved quality of life to residents of Fairfax area nursing homes and assisted living facilities through regular pet visitation by trained volunteers and their approved pets.

Sponsored by the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging and approved by the American Kennel Club as a therapy dog group, FPOW's trained people and pet teams share the power of the human-animal bond through thousands of hours of pet therapy visits every year. They have facilitated pet visitations through a network of more than 300 volunteers, and currently provide visitation to residents in ten facilities. Their dedicated volunteers donated over 8,000 hours of pet visitation just last year.

Pet visitation is proven to have a calming effect. Regular visits by volunteer and pet teams help reduce anxiety, relieve depression, lower blood pressure, encourage communication, and increase socialization. Touching animals helps chase away loneliness and withdrawal and encourages a meaningful connection to happier times.

Throughout the pandemic, many of us have had to isolate to keep our communities safe, and this left many older adults without social interaction or company. We were seeing this take a toll on the mental and physical health of our senior population as they were forced to quarantine for weeks on end. As we are starting to return to normalcy, the visits from furry friends are a great way for our elderly community to lift their spirits.

FPOW volunteers and their pet partners make a difference every day by sharing the unconditional love of a pet to help improve someone's life. In return, human volunteers get to spend more time with their pets and make new friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Fairfax Pets on Wheels program. Volunteers of this organization dedicate themselves to the senior residents of Fairfax County make sure that all residents, including some of the most vulnerable in our society, are being looked out for. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to this organization for their work to support our aging adults in this community.

HONORING MICHELE GARGIULO'S CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my key staff members, Michele Gargiulo. In 2011, I hired Michele to assist in opening my district office in Gulfport, Mississippi. As a military veteran, she performed constituent services specializing in military and veterans' issues. Because of her strong work ethic and dedication to serving the constituents of Mississippi's 4th Congressional District, she was entrusted with the role of Director of Constituent Services in 2012 and was promoted to District Director in 2017, serving as such for five years.

Michele grew up in Huntington Beach, California, and graduated from San Diego State University, receiving her bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Commission as an Active-Duty U.S. Army Transportation Officer. While stationed in Stuttgart, Germany, she met her husband, Frederick Gargiulo. They married in 1988, and in 1992, Michele left the military as a Captain in the Louisiana National Guard. For the next 25 years, she focused on supporting military families and raising her three children—Danielle, Blaise, and Sydney. During this time, she ran a transition center for underserved teenagers in a local high school and oversaw family support groups for military families with service members that were forward deployed.

Michele's accomplishments as a congressional staffer are both numerous and outstanding. Of note, she ensured several Vietnam War veterans received the Purple Heart medals they had earned in combat, she worked with key stakeholders throughout the district to ensure their concerns were heard and their needs were met, and she oversaw the successful resolution of over 60,000 constituent service requests. Beyond her work, Michele is a beloved mother, wife, sister, and grandmother—and in all of those roles, she truly excels. Additionally, she served as the President of the Board of Directors for CASA of Harrison County, was awarded the Yellow Rose of Texas by President George W. Bush and is an avid long-distance runner and tennis player.

The signature block on Michele's email includes a phrase in Latin that means "getting better, faster," and that epitomizes Michele's impact as a District Director. She led, mentored, and managed the district staff through multiple sessions of Congress, always intending to improve the team so that we could better serve the people of Mississippi's 4th Congressional District. She is relentless in her work ethic, dedicated to her cause, and positively impacts everyone she meets. For over a decade, Michele's organizational skills and tireless effort have enabled our staff to achieve real and lasting results for the people of Mississippi.

I thank Michele.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR DANIEL MULHALL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary work of Daniel Mulhall during his 5 year tenure (2017–2022) as Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America. Ambassador Mulhall enhanced the already positive relationship between our two nations. He was a respected voice on important policy issues but also wove in the cultural aspects often referencing art, poetry and music in discussions and writings.

Ambassador Mulhall served during a critical time for both our nations. In the United States, he witnessed 2 impactful elections, experienced a global pandemic, met with elected officials on both sides of the aisle about cultural and policy issues and welcomed us into his home for celebrations and remembrances. He amplified our economic ties with Ireland citing our investment and trade relationship.

He framed the impact of Brexit on Ireland and the need for the Northern Ireland Protocol to navigate it. And he emphasized the importance to protect and celebrate the Good Friday Agreement as its 25th anniversary approaches.

I enjoyed our work together in my capacity as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Co-Chair of the Congressional Friends of Ireland and as Congressman representing the First Congressional District of Massachusetts that is home to one of the largest Irish American communities in the nation.

Not a meeting or conversation would go by without some relevant insight about how politics or policies of the day had an impact on culture in both our nations.

As he begins the next chapter of his career, I know he will continue to expand his quest for knowledge and share his keen interest and wisdom with those forging a path to foreign service. He also will provide the space for students to deepen their knowledge about Ireland.

Diplomacy is the balance of creativity and storytelling. Ireland has a story to tell, and Ambassador Mulhall did it with grace and precision. That is best described in the book *All Strangers Here: 100 Years of Personal Writing from the Irish Foreign Service*. It was co-edited by Angela Byrne, Ragnar Deeney Almquist and Helena Nolan. I encourage my colleagues to read the following excerpts. The first is an essay by Dan Mulhall entitled, "A New Day Dawning" about a visit from Queen Victoria to Dublin. The second is a poem by Eavan Boland (commissioned by current Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America, Geraldine Byrne Nason), "Our Future Will Become the Past of Other Women."

A NEW DAY DAWNING (extract)

Daniel Mulhall

Perched on top of Killiney Hill overlooking Dublin Bay, there is an eighteenth-century obelisk that is visible from many of the southern suburbs of Dublin. This stark monument, erected in 1742 as part of a famine relief scheme, stands at the highest point of a public park that carries in its name a reminder of Ireland as it was the last time a century came to a close. In 1900 this amenity was known as Victoria Park, and

this was the year when Queen Victoria made only the third visit to Ireland of her very long reign. Victoria Park had been acquired in 1887 by the Queen's Jubilee Memorials Association to commemorate the 50th year of her reign. In April 1900, as the recently commissioned royal yacht, *Victoria* and *Albert*, sailed into Dublin Bay for the start of the Queen's three-week stay in Ireland, the obelisk in Victoria Park could be seen from the deck of the monarch's vessel. Someone in her party may well have pointed the monument out to the ageing monarch, and recalled its connection with her. There was a fireworks display on Killiney Hill on the evening of her arrival while the Queen was still on board the vessel docked at Kingstown.

For many in turn-of-the-century Ireland, this rare Royal visit was a huge highlight, the years undoubted centrepiece. For others, the aged Queen's presence in Dublin served as an uncomfortable reminder of the painful calamities that had befallen the Irish people during her reign. It was essential for the British establishment to tread warily between the competing forces of nationalism and unionism. In a burst of doggerel, the popular poet, Percy French, imagines the Queen's after-dinner speech as overheard by Jamesy Murphy, the fictional Deputy Assistant-Waiter at the Vice-Regal Lodge. The Queen recalls advice she received not to travel to Ireland:

'They was greatly in dread,' sez she,
'I'd be murdered or shot,' sez she,
'As like as not,' sez she.

French's lines manage to conjure up the atmosphere of the period and the political squabbles generated by the Queen's Irish sojourn. He visualises the advice she might have given Lord Zetland before they set out for Ireland:

'Remember and steer,' sez she,
'Uncommonly clear,' sez she,
'I know what you mean,' sez he,
'Up wid the green,' sez he,
'And 'God Save the Queen,' sez he. [. . .]

The Royal visit's immediate political purpose was to stem the tide of anti-British feeling generated by the outbreak of the Boer War. As the Marquis of Salisbury remarked, 'no one can suppose that she goes to Ireland for pleasure.' Cadogan, the Lord Lieutenant, assured the Queen, who was known to have had no great warmth of feeling for Ireland, that she would be greeted 'with unbounded loyalty and pleasure,' but this reassuring simplification was not the full story.

In nationalist circles, Dublin Corporation's decision, taken by 30 votes to 22 despite the body's nationalist majority, to deliver a 'loyal address' to the visiting sovereign, caused a considerable stir. The prime mover behind the decision was the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Sir Thomas Devereux Pile. Elected as a home ruler, and having been a member of the Wolfe Tone one and '98 Martyrs Memorial Committee, Mayor Pile, an English-born fish merchant about whose political views Dublin Castle initially had strong misgivings on account of his association with Fred Allen, a Lancashire man with a Fenian background, had already broken the conventions of nationalist politics by making an official call on the Lord Lieutenant and by failing to keep himself sufficiently aloof from the British administration.

Pile's unpopularity marred Dublin's first ever St Patrick's Day Parade which was 'favoured with charming weather'. The Mayor was hissed by sections of the crowd and had stones thrown at his carriage. There were pro-Boer cheers from sections of the crowd and when a Boer flag was flown it was seized by a mounted policeman and the crowd was baton charged. On the eve of the Queen's arrival, dissenting members of the Corporation provoked renewed political debate, this time about the Act of Union, whose centenary was the ostensible rationale for the visit. They declared that the Union had been 'obtained by fraud and shameful corruption', and that there would be 'neither contentment nor loyalty in this country until our national parliament is restored.' The public gallery was crowded for the debate and those who condemned the Act of Union were loudly cheered. After heated exchanges, the nationalist motion was carried by 42 votes to nine. Taunts of 'flunkeyism' were levelled at the motion's opponents who complained of its extreme language. As a result, the Royal visit, though meant as an opportunity to acknowledge Ireland's English connection, was turned into an occasion for underlining nationalist Ireland's undying opposition to the Union between the two islands. Local authorities had become an important new arena within which nationalists could air their political grievances and vaunt their identity. Later in the year, Dublin Corporation moved to confer the freedom of the City on the Boer leader, President Kruger, who was then in exile in Paris. While this bid was ruled out of order on procedural grounds, it further highlighted the Corporation's antiestablishment credentials. Other local authorities did succeed in honouring Kruger. There were frequent disputes because of decisions by local authorities to fly nationalist flags on public buildings in defiance of local unionist opinion.

The Royal visit posed a dilemma for nationalist parliamentarians who could hardly warm to it. At the same time, they had no desire to give offence to the aged monarch. To mark the visit, there were a number of Royal pronouncements designed to please Irish opinion, including the creation of a new regiment, the Irish Guards, to be based at Buckingham Palace. After consulting with Tim Healy, John Redmond decided to adopt a conciliatory line. Alluding to another recently-announced Royal gesture, he predicted that the Irish people:

would receive with gratification the announcement that Her Majesty has directed that for the future the shamrock shall be worn by Irish regiments on March 17th to commemorate the gallantry of Irish soldiers in South Africa.

Parnell's sister, Anna, was decidedly unimpressed by the Queen's 'cruel little insult' to the shamrock, and wrote that:

those who cannot refrain from wearing the shamrock should dip it in ink until its dishonour has been wiped out either by the final triumph of the Boers or in some other way.

The issue divided the Parnell family. Her brother, John, distanced himself from his sister's defence of the shamrock's honour and took part in the ceremonies marking the Queen's arrival in Dublin. On St Patrick's Day 1900, many

English people took their cue from the Queen and decided to wear the shamrock. On arrival at Kingstown, the Queen was careful to display the emblem prominently on her lapel.

OUR FUTURE WILL BECOME THE PAST OF OTHER WOMEN (extract)

Eavan Boland

Show me your hand. I see our past,
Your palm roughened by heat, by frost.
By pulling a crop out of the earth
By lifting a cauldron off the hearth.
By stripping rushes dipped in fat
To make a wick make a rush light.
That was your world: your entry to
Our ancestry in our darkest century.
Ghost-sufferer, our ghost-sister
Remind us now again that history
changes in one moment with one mind.
That it belongs to us, to all of us.
As we mark these hundred years
We will not leave you behind.
[. . .]
If we could only summon
Or see them these women,
Foremothers of the nurture
And dignity that will come
To all of us from this day
We could say across the century
To each one-give me your hand:
It has written our future.
Our future will become
The past of other women.
Our island that was once
Settled and removed on the edge
Of Europe is now a bridge
To the world. And so we share
This day with women everywhere.
For those who find the rights they need
To be hard won, not guaranteed,
Not easily given, for each one
We have a gift, a talisman:
The memory of these Irish women
Who struggled and prevailed.
For whose sake we choose
These things from their date
To honour, to remember and to celebrate:
All those who called for it,
The vote for women.
All those who had the faith
That voices can be raised. Can be heard.
All those who saw their hopes
Become the law. All those who woke
In a new state flowering
From an old nation and found
Justice no longer blind.
Inequity set aside.
And freedom re-defined.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DULLES CHAPTER 1241

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Dulles Chapter 1241 on its 50th anniversary. The Northern Virginia region is home to tens of thousands of federal employees and many retirees who have chosen to stay in the region. Throughout their careers, these dedicated civil servants have given their time and effort to serve their fellow Americans, and NARFE has consistently provided them with coordinated support.

Founded in 1921, NARFE is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the earned pay, retirement, and

health care benefits of federal employees and retirees as well as their spouses and survivors. Dulles Chapter 1241 is one of more than 1600 NARFE chapters nationwide.

The Charter for Chapter 1241 was issued June 21, 1972. At that time, there were 9 members. Today, the Chapter membership has grown to approximately 350 members with another 400 national members in the Dulles jurisdiction. Chapter members have had a strong voice in many national and local legislative issues affecting federal retirees, senior citizens, and the public at large. In 2015, following the dissolution of the Leesburg Chapter, the Dulles Chapter welcomed many of these federal employees and retirees into their ranks with open arms. Chapter 1241 has worked from their founding to represent federal employees, but also to better their community.

This chapter has supported Alzheimer's research for many years through regular drawings, the "Red Pot" for monthly donations, and the Alzheimer's Christmas Challenge. Additionally, the Dulles chapter has sponsored several food drives for Fairfax County food pantries, collecting resources for those who have been hit the hardest by misfortune. Throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Dulles Chapter has seen its share of hardship, but these federal employees have still banded together to ensure that everyone's needs are met.

Over the years, members have also participated in health and community fairs, auto shows, and other outreach activities. Additionally, many members have been active leaders in the Virginia Federation of NARFE. These accomplished federal employees have earned the attention and praise of numerous bodies, from Virginia state legislators to NARFE national leaders, as well as travel, medical, insurance, tax, and law enforcement experts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Dulles Chapter 1241 for 50 years of dedicated service to Northern Virginia's federal employees. These individuals are the lifeblood of our federal government, and I am grateful for their service and proud to represent such outstanding individuals. I wish them the best for their anniversary, and continued success in future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY HUGH ASHFORD ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chair of the Appropriations Committee, and on behalf of the Members of the Committee, and its staff, to pay tribute to Jeffrey "Jeff" Ashford as he retires following nearly 4 decades of government service, including over 25 years with the House Appropriations Committee.

Jeff began his career in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and later joined the International Security Affairs Branch of the International Affairs Division within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where he developed and oversaw security assistance and arms control budgets and programs.

Later, after serving the HM Treasury in London for 2 years, Jeff returned to OMB, this time within the State-USIA Branch where he developed and oversaw the budget for several State Department programs.

Jeff came home to the House Appropriations Committee in 1997, first serving on the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Subcommittee. He led the Committee's work on Treasury's law enforcement efforts, drug programs, and personnel agencies. In 2003, Jeff took on the difficult task of working for the newly established Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Jeff's work was particularly important in ensuring that the new programs, tasked with protecting the American people, were properly funded and that the Committee's priorities were considered. He also helped ensure that the Committee exercised strong and responsible oversight over the Department of Homeland Security, especially during a complicated period of transition.

Since 2013, Jeff has served on the staff of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies subcommittee. Jeff has helped the Committee and its Members effectively navigate, negotiate, and resolve politically-sensitive issues. His profound technical knowledge of the Justice Department, including its law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and prisons and the Civil Rights and National Security divisions, has benefited the Committee greatly and ensured the Department works most effectively for the American people.

Jeff's tenacious work ethic and his expert knowledge of the issues under our Committee's jurisdiction have made him an unparalleled asset to the committee. Even during trying circumstances, Jeff always brings with him unfailing good humor and even keel. His hard work has made our government work better and our Congress and this Committee stronger. His dedication to this body and to the American people have made him a truly unique and irreplaceable asset.

I speak for myself and all Members of the Committee in saying we will miss Jeff's incredible understanding of the federal budget and his hard work and dedication greatly.

I am excited for what the future holds for Jeff and wish him, his wife Lori, and his children Chloe and Sylvia the very best. Congratulations on a wonderful career. Our Nation and this body will miss Jeff and are deeply thankful to him for his leadership.

ELMER BEACH: LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a longtime constituent, Elmer Beach.

Elmer passed away on December 3, 2022, and he left behind a legacy of service to our Nation. At 100 years of age, Elmer had lived a full life as a member of the "Greatest Generation." He served during World War II as a proud U.S. Marine. He saw action in Guam, Bougainville, and Guadalcanal. And bore a scar on his leg from a Japanese dagger on Iwo Jima. He didn't talk about his service. But Elmer was more than a warrior. He was a father of 7 and a loving husband.

He was kind, humble, and never complained—and he never stopped loving his country.

ADDRESSING THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE ONE FINAL TIME

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the People's House for one final time.

While it's hard to sum up all the lessons that I've learned over the past 10 years as a Member of Congress and 16 years as a district staffer, I'd like to take the opportunity to say thanks.

I thank the people of the 13th District of Illinois for allowing me the honor to represent them. Over the years we've been able to achieve some big wins for hardworking families throughout our district, including successfully updating the tax code by passing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, making regulatory reforms to speed up federal highway projects and save taxpayer dollars through my One Federal Decision Act, and the passage of the Small Community Transit Improvement Act to help secure additional federal transit dollars for downstate Illinois communities that rely on transit systems.

It's also been a pleasure to fight on behalf of our farmers by helping to write two farm bills that included provisions to strengthen critical farm programs and increase federal support for agricultural research.

We also helped secure wins for our military over the years in the annual National Defense Authorization Act, and for our veterans through the passage of important bills like the Hire More Heroes Act—my bill to help small businesses hire veterans by amending Obamacare.

I'm also proud of the work we've done to address the student loan crisis, including the passage of the Employer Participation in Repayment Act, legislation I wrote to create a unique public-private partnership.

We've fought for families, who like my own, have fought cancer. Drawing inspiration from my wife Shannon, we advocated for increased federal funding into cancer research and access to cancer treatment and prevention. We passed my bipartisan Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act, which was signed into law in 2020, to decrease colorectal cancer deaths by increasing cancer screenings.

These wins were made possible thanks to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who were willing to work together to help make life better for our constituents back home. I also thank my district and D.C. staff who served in the trenches alongside me during some of these tough legislative fights.

I also want to thank my incredible team at the Committee on House Administration, where I've had the honor to serve as the Ranking Member. We've been able to navigate unprecedented times together, including the House's continuity of operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 shutdown of D.C. as the House shifted to full telework. We understood that no matter the circumstances,

the American people deserve an accessible and transparent government. That's why we helped ensure the safe reopening of several of our oversight entities, including the Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution museums, and the National Gallery of Art, and we set the stage for a full reopening of the People's House come the 118th Congress under a Republican-led Majority.

We also experienced some dark times together, including one of the biggest security failures that the U.S. Capitol has ever experienced on January 6, 2021. Despite some in Congress using this attack to turn Capitol security into a partisan exercise, we remained focused on our oversight responsibilities and investigated why the complex was left so vulnerable that day. As a result, we were able to successfully push the U.S. Capitol Police Board into greater compliance with the 2017 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report, creating important reforms to the Board. Additionally, we developed recommendations that the next Congress can implement to ensure our rank-and-file officers, who saved my life that day and on a baseball field in 2017, are never put in that terrible position again.

This leads me to another very important thanks, which is to our brave Capitol Police officers. They are not just my heroes, but also some of the closest friends I've made during my time here. The post-Jan. 6 memorial wall we helped create in the Cannon Tunnel only provided a small glimpse into the gratitude each Member and staff has for each of them.

During my tenure on House Administration, we also had an important oversight role to play in regards to federal elections. We fought against several partisan power grabs, including legislation that would nationalize our elections like the "For the People Act," and we also successfully stopped Speaker NANCY PELOSI and House Democrats from unseating Congresswoman MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS in Iowa's 2nd Congressional District and instead seating their preferred candidate, Democrat Rita Hart. I'd like to thank my House Administration staff and the entire House Republican Conference for working together to raise public awareness on this issue and ultimately stopping this blatant attempt to thwart the will of Iowa voters.

I'd also like to thank every state and local election administrator and key stakeholder who participated in our Faith in Elections Project; a 2 year, 3 pronged strategy to restore faith and confidence in our elections system at a time when voters most needed it. Thanks to our meetings where you provided me with input, I was able to introduce comprehensive legislation, the American Confidence in Elections Act, that will protect States' primary authority over elections while also providing States with key election integrity tools. I look forward to watching this advance next Congress and one day be signed into law.

Through my work on the Committee on House Administration, I've had the opportunity to build relationships across this institution—whether it was from meeting the behind-the-scenes public servants in the Clerk's Office to the volunteers and leadership at the Botanic Garden, to the construction workers over the last 3 phases of the Cannon House Office Building's renovation. I want to thank every person who help keep this House running, and I know that there is more we can do to sup-

port them. That's why I've taken what I've learned from my House Administration role and paired it with 4 years of work on the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress to outline a Roadmap with reforms that the next Congress should make to strengthen this institution, support the Members and staff, and ultimately better serve the American people.

While I will no longer be a Member come January, I will continue to be this institution's biggest advocate and know that the great work will continue because of all of them. They'll also have new support from staff who we've trained up through our new Level Up program, and the incoming Members who I've been able to welcome over the past two New Member Orientations hosted by the Committee on House Administration.

And finally, I'd like to thank my best friend and wife Shannon, and our three children Toryn, Clark and Griffin, for going on this journey with me all these years. I look forward to spending even more time with my family.

Congress, it's been an honor.

COMMENDING JOAN W. SACAROB
AND DONALD A. SACAROB

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the lifetime of service that Joan and Donald Sacarob have dedicated to Hadassah, a non-profit organization that seeks to expand women's rights and their leadership capacity. Hadassah embodies Jewish values to advance health equity, fight antisemitism, and equip women with the tools they need to make a difference in their communities.

Hadassah's mission is to provide education, advocacy, and youth development opportunities to enhance the lives of those in their community. Their work extends to the Hadassah Medical Organization to research cutting-edge medical procedures and provide first-rate care for those who need it. To these ends, they connect and empower Jewish women to lead by example.

The organization traces its origins back to the extraordinary public service of Henrietta Szold, who dedicated her life to ameliorating disease and starvation that were disproportionately affecting Jewish people. She founded youth villages to house Jewish children who fled their homelands as Nazi troops invaded Eastern Europe. Her legacy of care has rippled outward for over a century. Hadassah was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for their work to offer world-class medical care to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, or national origin, following their commitment to building a bridge to peace through medicine.

For 50 consecutive years, Joan Sacarob has served Hadassah with national portfolios focused on advocacy and philanthropy. Her husband Donald has served as the National Associate Vice President of Hadassah, the men's branch of the organization. For decades, these 2 hardworking philanthropists and activists have committed themselves to the betterment of the Northern Virginia and Greater Washington Metropolitan Area Jewish communities.

Joan was a pivotal figure in the development of the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, and her friends and colleagues recognize her as a passionate and resilient force. She served for 20 years on the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington and was honored for her distinguished service on the board in 2006. Her advocacy work has not dwindled since then, and I am honored to know such a fierce advocate for equity.

Joan and Donald have earned the respect and recognition of their peers. Their work has been instrumental in advancing the causes of health equity, women's leadership, and access to much needed resources. I wish them every success and comfort as they continue their work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joan and Donald Sacarob for their exceptional dedication and leadership within our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
HONORABLE CLARENCE "BUD"
ALBRIGHT

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the service of the Honorable Clarence "Bud" Albright, who served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Nuclear Industry Council (USNIC) for the past 3 years. Previously, Bud served as the organization's board chair, and he will be retiring at the end of this year.

As a native of Rock Hill, South Carolina, Bud has had a successful and impressive career, giving him broad and extensive experience in the energy sector. Prior to his work in energy issues, Bud served in several senior government roles. In the energy field, Bud was Vice President of Federal Affairs for Texas-based Reliant Energy in the Washington, D.C. office. He also served as the former Under Secretary of Energy, after being appointed by President Bush and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Bud is a proud husband, father, son, and friend, and his tremendous work has not only made the State of South Carolina proud, but the entire country. His tireless commitment to public service and providing Americans with reliable energy throughout his career is inspirational. I am reminded of the verse Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord and not for human masters." Bud has a servant's heart which was evident in the work he produced and relationships he built. I am thankful for Bud's friendship and the resource that he has been to me in Congress.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to be able to serve the Third District of South Carolina and to honor those who have dedicated their life to public service, like Bud. I wish Bud and his family many more years of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING MILWAUKEE
COUNTY SHERIFF DENITA R. BALL

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Milwaukee County Sheriff Denita R. Ball. Sheriff Denita R. Ball will be sworn in as Milwaukee County Sheriff on January 6, 2023. Sheriff Ball was elected as the 66th Sheriff of Milwaukee County on Nov. 8, 2022, making her the first female sheriff in the history of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, and the first African American female sheriff in Wisconsin.

A native of Arkansas, Sheriff Ball holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, a master's degree in criminal justice administration from the UW-Milwaukee, and has a doctorate of philosophy in educational leadership from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. Her doctoral dissertation is titled "Lethal Force: A Police Officer's Deadly Experience."

Sheriff Ball is also a graduate of several prestigious leadership programs, including the Department of Homeland Security's Leadership Academy (2019), Southern Police Institute Chief Executive Leadership Course (2007), the FBI National Academy (2004), the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Executive Development Course, which was sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Department of Justice (1995), and Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command (1994).

Before being elected, Sheriff Ball had served since 2019 as chief deputy sheriff/undersheriff of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the agency. Prior to her service with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Ball was a high-ranking member of the Milwaukee Police Department and retired at the rank of deputy inspector after 25 years of distinguished service.

While a member of the police department, Sheriff Ball commanded Police District Four, the Professional Performance Division (Internal Affairs), and the Sensitive Crimes Division. Additionally, Sheriff Ball organized, implemented and was the first commander of the Neighborhood Task Force, a group of 200 officers from the following units: Street Crimes (Gang and Narcotic Officers), Tactical Enforcement (SWAT), Motorcycle, Marine Operations (Boats) Canine, and Mounted Patrol and supervised their strategic deployment to high crime areas, which resulted in double-digit decreases in crime.

In her role as Milwaukee County Sheriff she will lead nearly 600 members, including more than 250 deputy sheriffs, 160 correctional officers, and hundreds of civilian support and administrative staff who are tasked with the safety and security of the 150-plus miles of the Milwaukee County freeway system, more than 150 county parks, the Milwaukee County Courthouse Complex, extended circuit court system, public safety building, Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, and numerous other county facilities and properties.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to recognize Milwaukee County Sheriff Denita R. Ball and her lifelong service of

protecting American citizens. I look forward to working with her in her efforts to protect the citizens of Milwaukee County.

THANKING THE GADDY FAMILY

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike and Gwen Gaddy. The Gaddy family are local celebrities in Fayetteville due to their giant Christmas light display they've done annually since 1988. Not only does this display on Sandy Creek Road bring joy to the community—being a free and fun drive through for all to enjoy—but it is also for a great cause.

Every year, they raise money for the March of Dimes along with providing a drop-off area for Toys for Tots donations. The March of Dimes donations began in 2012 in honor of their grandson Brady, who passed away as an infant. Since 2012, they have raised more than \$160,000 for the charity. The toys donated at their Toys for Tots location equate to more than 2,500 toys, and as much as 23 percent of the toys donated in Fayette County some years.

The Gaddy family has never taken any money from the public to keep the display running or to offset their expensive power bill—everything donated goes to charity. Madam Speaker, their selfless actions have made them a staple in our local community, and we're extremely grateful for everything they do to bring joy to folks around the holiday season.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF
THE 2022 ARTS AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize ArtsFairfax and the recipients of the 2022 Arts Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary contributions of artists, arts organizations, individuals, and businesses in Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Falls Church that support the arts in our community.

Founded in 1964, the formally named Arts Council of Fairfax County, Inc. is a non-profit organization designated as Fairfax County's local arts agency. Today, ArtsFairfax operates programs and initiatives that include grant opportunities, arts advocacy, education, and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organizations.

As the arts community has continued to rebuild after many artists and organizations had to cancel programs and events during the height of the pandemic, ArtsFairfax awarded over \$538,838 in County, public, and private funds through competitive grants and awards to arts organizations and individual artists in FY2021. ArtsFairfax's resiliency and adaptability allowed the organization to continue meeting the needs of the arts community during these unprecedented times.

The Arts Awards honors supporters of the arts in 4 categories: the Jinx Hazel Arts Award, the Arts Achievement Award, the Arts Innovation Award, and the Arts Philanthropy Award. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the following names of the 2022 Arts Awards Recipients:

The 2022 Jinx Hazel Arts Award, ArtsFairfax's premier award recognizing an individual or organization whose vision and commitment has helped shape the cultural life of Fairfax County, will be presented to Capital One Hall.

The 2022 Arts Achievement Award will be presented to Mark Brutsché for his outstanding career achievement and lasting contributions to the community.

The 2022 Arts Innovation Award will be presented to Fall for the Book for their implementation of inventive approaches to their art form that have uniquely engaged audiences in the arts.

The 2022 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Gary and Tina Mather for their commitment to making the arts the cornerstone of their philanthropic portfolio.

I also want to recognize the 2022–2024 Fairfax Poet Laureate, Danielle Badra, as she builds awareness and appreciation of poetry throughout Fairfax County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2022 Arts Awards and recognizing the visionaries, leaders, and supporters who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. PHILIP GRAHAM

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. GREEN. Madam Speaker, Tennessee's 7th District is full of men and women dedicated to their city, their state, their country, and their God. Everyday citizens who bring light, hope, and love to the world right in front of them. I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one such Tennessee resident.

Philip Graham was born in Clarksville, Tennessee, on July 4, 1950. The Tennessee 7th was home for all his 71 years. His world was his family. With his wife, Brenda, and daughter Ashley Elizabeth, he spent countless years making his community a brighter, more hopeful place. From his many years at APSU to his long career at Marriott International, nothing was ordinary or common when he was gathered in with the people he cherished.

He was a proud member of the Montgomery County Republican Party and an Associate Member of the Montgomery County Republican Women. Philip cherished and championed many friends who ran for various offices. He was honored to serve as a poll watcher in local elections and encouraged all to be active participants in the town he loved.

In perhaps his greatest service to the world around him, Philip deeply championed Cumberland Heights and the recovery community as he worked daily to help others follow the better way. He, along with his family, looked forward to May 17—what he affectionately called his other birthday. He joyfully celebrated 43 years of sobriety.

Philip's life was one of more than service to others. He believed he was called to love all those who the Almighty had placed in his path. He came to know the God of his understanding and sought Him in various houses of worship, untold bookstores, scientific studies, and the gathering of friends. His strong faith was a gift to his family each day.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda, his daughter, his son-in-law, and the light of his last years, his granddaughter Brooklynn Isabella Graham. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the life and legacy of Philip Graham. May we, together, pray for his family as we—in his memory—recommit ourselves to lives in service to each other.

RECOGNIZING BLUES GYM AND MR. DINO NEWVILLE OF GRAND RAPIDS

HON. PETER MEIJER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize philanthropist, small business owner, and four-time world kickboxing champion, Mr. Dino Newville.

As operator of Blues Gym, a mixed-martial-arts facility in Grand Rapids, it is not just Dino's athletic accomplishments that make him worthy of recognition. For nearly a decade, Blues Gym has been both a family and a sanctuary to hundreds of at-risk young adults. While offering important lessons in self-defense, Blues Gym also provides tutoring, counseling, and it regularly organizes food drives for those in need. The tireless work of Dino and his volunteers to uplift the youth in our community is a generous act of service for which we should all be incredibly proud.

Dino, who rallies behind the motto "Fill the Gyms, Not the Prisons," runs the gym as an entirely non-profit, volunteer-based organization. Relying almost exclusively on donations and public support, Dino has even re-entered the ring himself to raise funds in support of those who find sanctuary at Blues Gym.

A highly skilled athlete and major proponent of our community, Dino has been recognized by the City of Grand Rapids on numerous occasions, the first time in 1981, for his accomplishments and philanthropy. As a vocal advocate for issues affecting young adults in Grand Rapids, Dino has proven that he will stop at nothing to ensure that they have the resources and opportunities needed to stay safe and thrive.

Madam Speaker, it is people like Mr. Dino Newville and the volunteers at Blues Gym who truly embody the spirit of giving and service. Dino is a role model for all of us, and I am proud not only to represent him, but to call him my friend.

HONORING MICHELLE DONCHES FOR 31 YEARS OF CONGRES- SIONAL SERVICE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a crucial member of my staff,

Mrs. Michelle M. Donches. Michelle has dedicated herself for 31 years as a congressional staffer. I'm thankful that she has been with me for almost 12 years, since my first day in Congress on January 3, 2011.

Michelle's career with the U.S. House of Representatives began in 1991 when the Office of the Clerk hired her to work as a Benefits Clerk in the Finance Office. Michelle was promoted to the Payroll Department, where she worked until 1999. Michelle transitioned from Payroll to her current position as a shared staffer, handling the office finances for multiple Members of Congress. Throughout her career, she has worked for 28 different Member offices and currently works for 9 Members.

Michelle grew up in Bethlehem, PA. After she graduated from college, she married her best friend, Steve, and started working on the Hill just weeks later as Steve began law school. Now, Steve is a practicing attorney in Loudoun County, VA. Michelle and Steve have two exceptional children. Her daughter, Taylor, graduated from the University of Virginia in May as a Civil/Environmental engineer. Taylor currently works for Kimley-Horn in Reston, VA. Her son, Stevie, is a freshman at the University of South Carolina.

Michelle's work ethic and expertise have been a true asset to my staff. I'm thankful for her tenure as a part of Team PALAZZO, and I know all the Member offices who have worked, currently work, and those that will work with her are so lucky. Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to Michelle for 31 exceptional years.

RECOGNIZING THE 18TH ANNUAL FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY CON- FERENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Fairfax County History Commission on the occasion of the 18th Annual Fairfax County History Conference.

Since 1969, the Fairfax County History Commission has worked to identify, document, record and preserve the history of our region. There are few areas in the country that are as rich in history as our area is. The History Conference provides an opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year while recognizing our neighbors who have made significant contributions to preserving and promoting our local history. Through the dedicated efforts of the History Commission and its many volunteers, we are assured that our history will not be lost and will be available for future generations.

This year, a number of dedicated individuals are being honored for their commitment to the preservation and education of history. I am proud to include in the RECORD their names:

Mike Salmon and Ean Eschenburg for their work to promote and preserve the history of Fairfax County through video historic documentary production. One of their first productions, entitled "The Gravel Pits: Before There Was a Kingstowne," takes the viewer from today's busy, attractive residential and commercial area of Kingstowne to the days when it

was a semi-abandoned concrete plant known as the Leehigh Cement Company.

Debbie Robison for her 11 years of service on the Fairfax County History Commission, including 2 years as the Commission's Chairperson. Her in-depth knowledge of Fairfax County and surrounding jurisdictions is beyond compare. She has been first and foremost a life-long promoter of the history and preservation of Fairfax County's history.

George Mason University Capstone Computer Science Program 2021 graduates, Akbur Asuri, Steve Cheuko, Brian Do, Fernando Galarza, Roman Patrick, and Samuel Pitch, for creating the Fairfax County African American History Inventory Database. The project included the labor, research and design to create a user friendly and future oriented data base, referenced as the African American Historic Inventory.

I commend the Fairfax County History Commission for helping to ensure that the abundance of history that is available to our community will be preserved far into the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating all the honorees and thanking the Fairfax County History Commission for the important work they do for the Northern Virginia community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, due to a transportation issue, I was unable to cast my vote on S. 2333, the Equal Pay for Team USA Act of 2022.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 532.

RECOGNIZING MIKE NICHOLA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mike Nichola, my former Legislative Director, and current Osceola County community leader. Mike has dedicated his professional life to helping better Osceola County and Central Florida.

Mike was my first Legislative Director and helped to establish my legislative office. He has a long list of impressive legislative accomplishments. Throughout his congressional career, from drafting hundreds of pieces of legislation to securing millions of dollars worth of appropriation requests, he always kept in mind that it's a privilege to work for the home office and would frequently go above and beyond for our constituents.

Since moving back to Central Florida, he continued to advocate for our community through Osceola County government. He was instrumental in helping the County navigate the uncertainty of the pandemic. He also helped the County get funding for roads, affordable housing, rental assistance, fire fighters, to restore their lakes and rivers, addressed storm water issues, and diversified

the Central Florida economy through expanding NeoCity.

Mike recently led a Central Florida regional coalition to apply for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Build Back Better Regional Challenge to expand NeoCity's semiconductor research, development, and manufacturing capabilities. Out of 529 applications nationwide, the Osceola-led Central Florida semiconductor coalition was the only organization in the State of Florida to be awarded a Phase 1 grant out of 17 applications. Mike was appointed the Regional Economic Competitiveness Officer and led the coalition during the 90-day period to refine, draft, and submit seven individual component grant applications and the overall proposal, while simultaneously securing over \$12 million in a private local match. Through his leadership, the coalition was one of 21 Phase 2 award winners, resulting in over \$50 million from the federal government.

I thank Mike for his service with my office, dedication to public service, and all that he does for Osceola County and Central Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ASHLEY HINSON

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mrs. HINSON. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes last week due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 519; NAY on Roll Call No. 520; NAY on Roll Call No. 521; YEA on Roll Call No. 522; NAY on Roll Call No. 523; NAY on Roll Call No. 524; NAY on Roll Call No. 525; YEA on Roll Call No. 526; NAY on Roll Call 527; YEA on Roll Call No. 528; NAY on Roll Call No. 529; and NAY on Roll Call No. 530.

HONORING JOHN WARDEN

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Mr. John Warden for his exceptional work on the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee as a detailee from the Institute for Defense Analysis during the second session of the 117th Congress.

John was responsible for advising on the nuclear weapons portfolio, arguably the most technically challenging and consequential area on which the Subcommittee legislates. Due to John's technical acumen and deep subject matter expertise, the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act prioritizes recapitalization of the nuclear triad, increases oversight across the DoD and NNSA weapons and warhead programs, and rightly highlights the need to continue improving and protecting our Nuclear Command, Communications, and Control architecture. I would like to also commend John on the work he did in the House-passed version of the NDAA to address the fact that the current legal requirements for plutonium pit production are unachievable, despite the language not surviving in the final bill.

Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I extend my appreciation to John for his lasting contributions to the Committee, and his work to ensure the United States maintains a safe, secure, reliable, and adequate deterrent given increased nuclear proliferation around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GRANT WAHL

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of sports journalist and native of Kansas' Third District, Grant Wahl. Born in Mission, Kansas, Mr. Wahl epitomized everything we value in Kansas City: he was kind, curious, and welcoming to all.

While growing up in Kansas, Mr. Wahl was an Eagle Scout, a diligent student, and a devoted fan of the Kansas City Comets soccer team. This groundwork of service, intellectual curiosity, and enthusiasm for sports would serve him well throughout his life. After graduating from Shawnee Mission East High School, Mr. Wahl attended Princeton University. Once there, the Kansas City Comets fan became a Princeton Tigers fan. He not only rooted for the Princeton Tigers men's soccer team but also covered their games in the Daily Princetonian. His love of soccer grew deeper, and his coverage of the sport became richer and more nuanced. He began exploring the intersections of his lifelong interests in civics, journalism, and sports. This foundation would be crucial for the rest of his career as a sports journalist.

While today we may know Mr. Wahl as one of the premier soccer journalists in America, soccer was only one of many sports that he covered in his career. His diverse coverage of sports led to some incredible journalistic highlights—including his prescient 2002 Sports Illustrated cover piece about then-high school basketball phenom LeBron James. No matter what he wrote about or who he interviewed, Mr. Wahl treated everyone with care and respect. He spent his career promoting women's soccer and the U.S. women's national team and dedicated his life to ensuring equal rights for all, including LGBTQ+ communities. Mr. Wahl loved soccer—much like we do in Kansas City—and used his passion to connect with fans from every corner of the globe. His voice will be missed not just in American sports journalism but by everyone who cheers for the world's game.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that Grant Wahl had roots in the Kansas Third District, and I lament that his life ended so early. I send my condolences for this tragic death to Mr. Wahl's wife, Dr. Céline Gounder, his brother Eric, and all his loved ones. He leaves behind him a legacy of curiosity and compassion that we may all find light within.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAMB CENTER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Lamb Center for 30 years of dedication and service to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Founded in 1992, the Lamb Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping those in our community who are suffering from the effects of poverty. This help takes many forms.

The Lamb Center is as a daytime drop-in shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness in Fairfax, Virginia. They provide a variety of services without cost to the individuals in need, including breakfast, lunch, showers, laundry service, case management, and more. The facility in Fairfax City is fitted with medical offices to provide health care services and referrals for the unhoused and uninsured. People can also receive pro bono restorative dental services on site.

Not only does the Lamb Center cover necessities like food, clothing, and hygiene, but they work to get people back on their feet and into permanent housing. One vital part of that is finding employment. Through their City Jobs program, the Lamb Center partners with the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County to create employment opportunities for individuals that meet these individuals where they are and empower them to reach their full employment potential. The program pays \$10 an hour for working 4 hours 2 days a week. The goal of the program is to help people graduate to a full-time or part time job in conjunction with housing opportunities.

For someone experiencing homelessness, knowing you are part of a community that cares and will give you the assistance necessary to get back on your feet can help ease the burden of your plight. In a county as economically prosperous as Fairfax County, it can be easy to forget there are still citizens who go without the most basic necessities. Organizations like the Lamb Center are helping to make sure that we bring everyone to the table and providing all with a path towards economic success and independence.

During my tenure as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, we developed a 10 year plan to prevent and end homelessness. Due to the efforts of the Lamb Center and many other similar public-private partnerships working to meet everyone's needs, we have seen homelessness in Fairfax County decline by 35 percent since 2008.

Madam Speaker, I extend my congratulations to Cathy Liverman, chairman of the Board, and Tara Ruszkowski, the Executive Director, as well as all the members of the Board, staff, and volunteers who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to the Lamb Center over the last 30 years. Their support is part of why Fairfax County remains 1 of the best places in the country in which to live, work, and raise a family, and I commend them all for their service to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lamb Center on this tremendous anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MARINA LETSIOS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute Marina Letsios, a woman of exemplary work ethic and dedication to our country.

Marina is a powerful example of strong female leadership as a "Good Will Ambassador At Large" and member of the Euro American Women's Council (EAWC). With that title and

position, she has been recognized for her dedication to the arts and philanthropy with the EAWC Artemis Award. In Greek religion, Artemis is the Goddess of the Hunt and represents both femininity and strength.

Marina is dedicated to strengthening her community both in America and abroad. She supports survivors of domestic violence through the organization Long Island Against Domestic Violence. She helps her neighbors in need put food on their tables through Long Island Cares & Baxter's Pantry.

Marina also supports non-profits helping those with mental illness and hosts annual coat drives through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Her philanthropy stretches across the pond as a supporter of the Prince's Trust International, a charity dedicated to solely helping young people around the world unlock their potential. Marina is a citizen of the globe who knows no bounds in helping those in need.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Marina Letsios' outstanding achievements. Marina's proven success is due to her ability to create strong teams that approach each challenge strategically. Her commitment to New York, our Nation, and our globe is an example for female leaders for generations to come.